Transport facilities in rural areas

†2902. DR. A. K. PATEL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there are still more than 40 per cent of such rural areas where adequate transport facilities are not available; and

(b) if so, what scheme Government propose to provide the above facility in the rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) According to available information, about 40% of Habitations in rural areas are still not connected by all-weather roads.

(b) Government have launched the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) to provide all-weather road connectivity to all Unconnected Habitations with a population of 500 persons and above [250 persons in respect of Hill States of North-East, Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttaranchal and the Desert Areas as identified in the Desert Development Programme as well as the Tribal (Schedule V) Areas] by the end of the Tenth Plan period (2007).

Water quality in Gujarat

†2903. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) when was the last survey done in rural Gujarat to find out the quality of drinking water of habitations affected by fluoride, salinity, iron, arsenic, nitrate etc;

(b) whether Government propose to advise the State Government to undertake fresh survey in this regard in view of adverse reports from the State; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL): (a) Water quality

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.